

23. The web material of claim 22 in which the synthetic fibres are selected from at least one of polyamide, polyamide copolymer, polyester, polyester copolymer, polyolefin and polyolefin copolymer fibres.

24. The web material of claim 22 in which the cellulosic fibres include abaca fibres, vegetable fibres or mixtures thereof.

25. The web material of claim 22 in which the cellulosic fibres include woodpulp fibres in an amount of up to 50% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

26. The web material of claim 22 in which the synthetic fibres comprise from 0.5 to 20% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

27. The web material of claim 22 in which the synthetic fibres comprise from 3 to 9% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

28. The web material of claim 22 in which the web material is wet-laid from a fibrous mixture containing cellulosic fibres and the synthetic fibres.

29. A method for lowering cross direction wet expansion of a nonwoven web material comprising: mixing cellulosic and synthetic fibres; and forming the mixed fibres into the nonwoven web, wherein the nonwoven web material exhibits lower cross direction wet expansion than a similar web material comprising only the same cellulosic fibres.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the cellulosic fibres include woodpulp fibres in an amount of up to 50% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

31. The method of claim 29 in which the step of forming comprises wet-laying the fibre mixture on a papermaking machine.

32. The method of claim 29 comprising impregnating the nonwoven web material with binder.

33. The method of claim 29 further comprising substantially coating the nonwoven web material with a viscose solution and subsequently regenerating cellulose from the viscose solution to form a casing material adapted for the packaging of food products.

34. A bonded casing paper comprising a nonwoven web material comprising cellulosic and synthetic fibres, the web material having lower cross direction wet expansion than a similar web material comprising only the same cellulosic fibres, wherein the web material is bonded with regenerated cellulose or a resin binder or a mixture of resin binders.

35. The bonded casing paper of claim 34 further including impregnation with viscose from which cellulose is thereafter regenerated to form a casing material for packaging of sausage or other meat product or other food products.

36. The web material of claim 34 in which drying of the web material is effected by a plurality of heated cylinders.

37. A casing paper, suitable for the preparation of casing material for the packaging of sausage or other meat product or other food products, which casing paper contains a web material comprising cellulosic fibres and synthetic fibres, the web material being bonded with regenerated cellulose or with a binder resin or

mixture of resin binders, wherein the synthetic fibres are selected from at least one of (i) fibres made of an organic polymer selected from polyester, polyester copolymer, polyamide, polyamide copolymer, polyolefin and polyolefin copolymer and (ii) fibres made of a mixture of at least two organic polymers selected from polyester, polyester copolymer, polyamide, polyamide copolymer, polyolefin and polyolefin copolymer.

38. A casing paper according to claim 37 in which the cellulosic web includes abaca fibres, vegetable fibres or mixtures thereof.

39. A casing paper according to claim 37 in which the cellulosic web includes woodpulp fibres in an amount of up to 50% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

40. A casing paper according to claim 37 in which the content of synthetic fibres in the web material is from 0.5 to 20% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

41. A casing paper according to claim 37 in which the content of synthetic fibres in the web material is from 3 to 9% by weight of a total weight of cellulosic and synthetic fibres.

42. A process for preparing casing paper, comprising: forming a web material containing cellulose fibres and synthetic fibres; and impregnating the web material with a resin binder, or a mixture of resin binders, or with viscose, wherein the synthetic fibres are selected from at least one of (i) fibres made of an organic polymer selected from polyester, polyester copolymer, polyamide, polyamide copolymer, polyolefin and polyolefin copolymer and (ii) fibres made of a mixture of the organic polymers.